



To: Indiana GIS Initiative
From: Jeff Sewell
Date: April 4, 2002
Re: April 2, 2002 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Bob Wilkinson, IDNR
EJ McNaughton, IDEM
Jeff Sewell, IDEM
Doug Marvel, Spatial Marvels
Karen Frederickson, The Polis Center

Announcements

1. **We have a new Co-chair!** As many of you know Jim Sparks has left The Polis Center to be a part of a new company called Innovative Map Solutions. Best wishes to Jim, and we look forward to continuing to work with him in the future. Karen Frederickson of The Polis Center has taken over as Co-chair for the Data Standards and Recommendations Committee, and will sit on the Indiana Geographic Information Council. Welcome Karen!
2. **Everyone has homework** - We are updating our website. Karen didn't get any other homework, so she was initiated with this task, but we need your help with this. The list of committee members is out of date. Our only real indication of our membership is the members of the listserve which does not match the current list on the website. Please e-mail Karen Frederickson at kfrederi@iupui.edu and let her know if you wish to be listed as a member of the committee on the website, or if you are simply on the standards listserve to receive information about the committee activities. We will also be making an effort to keep the meeting minutes and other documents and announcements up to date on the website.
Homework: Jeff Sewell - send meeting notes, and standards logo to Karen with instructions for submitting updates to Access Indiana.
3. **Common Procurement Language Draft** – Jill Saligoe-Simmel has prepared some draft procurement language for use in GIS related contracts. I had difficulty opening the version Jill e-mailed to me, but as soon as we get that worked out, we will get it out to the listserve for comment. The goal of this document is to provide model procurement language to, among other things, be sure that GIS projects are completed following appropriate standards, and metadata is included as a deliverable.

Feature Metadata Standard

Status: Draft

During the meeting: The group went over Attachment B – Feature Metadata Codes and Definitions, and discussed the pros & cons of creating a new codeset. The current draft borrows codes from multiple sources, and adds new codes approximating the format from these existing codesets. The committee decided that this was not a good idea, and that we should either create a completely new and unique codeset, or find an acceptable existing codeset to use by reference.

Jeff Sewell and Bob Wilkinson reported on the Feature Metadata presentation at Road School on 3/27. Feedback from Road School was mixed. Some attendees simply weren't involved in GIS so the concepts were completely foreign. Feedback from the GIS users in the group was positive, and good questions were asked.

Homework:

1. Jeff Sewell will contact EPA to see where they are with their feature metadata codesets, and to determine if they would be willing to add additional codes at our request. Jeff will also conduct additional research to see if there are other suitable existing codesets, and if the FGDC is addressing this in any manner.
2. Bob Wilkinson will investigate whether or not Laser Rangefinders are capable of vertical positioning.
3. Jeff will work on completing the Attachments C & D and incorporate the last few comments to work towards final draft. It's not too late for comments to be sent to Jeff at jsewell@dem.state.in.us
4. Upon receiving a final draft, Jill Saligoe-Simmel will ask Council to vote on whether or not to release the standard for public comment approximately 2 weeks after they receive it. Due to the outreach to the surveying community that needs to happen for this standard, we will plan on an extra long comment period.

Draft Projections, Datum, and Coordinate System Standard

http://www.in.gov/ingisi/pdf/draft_proj_datum.pdf

Status: Approved by IGIC

During the meeting: The only thing left is to finalize the "side bar." The Council approved the standard in advance of the final draft which is to include a side bar discussing the realities of the GIS community which make it necessary for the standard to be flexible to meet the needs of groups working in different projections.

Homework:

1. Roger Koelpin will finalize the "sidebar" weaving his draft together with content provided by Larry Stout and some additional content discussed in the meeting.
2. Jeff will contact Jim Sparks to get the digital copy of the standard, and will then add the sidebar to the standard.
3. Jeff will have the standard posted on the website upon completion.

Indiana Standard Projection Study Project

Status: The committee is studying the idea of encouraging the use of a single projection in Indiana to promote data sharing. Currently three different projections are commonly used in Indiana: UTM zone 16, Indiana East State Plane, and Indiana West State Plane. This limits sharing of raster data between users of different projections because raster data requires specialized software, a skilled user, and time to reproject. Vector data can be easily reprojected, and even reprojected on the fly, so the projection isn't as big of an issue for sharing vector data.

The first solution discussed by the committee was to create a single state plane zone for Indiana as Kentucky and Montana have done to address these issues. The discussion has evolved to include consideration of UTM zone 16.

This committee recognizes that this concept is not without costs and inconveniences to anyone who might ultimately be faced with changing their GIS over to a new projection, and is studying the pros and cons of the concept so that an informed decision can be made about whether or not to make a recommendation to the Council regarding a standard projection for Indiana. The committee is committed to seeking the involvement of all sectors of the Indiana GIS community in this discussion.

During the meeting: The group continued discussions on pros and cons of a single state plane zone, and expanded the discussion based on comments provided by Dr. van Gelder, the State Geodetic Advisor. Gary Kent asked Dr. van Gelder for his thoughts on the idea of a creating a single state plane zone for Indiana. Dr. van Gelder suggested that UTM zone 16 would be a better alternative because it is a widely used existing projection, and would avoid the challenges of implementing a new projection and getting software vendors to support it. The group briefly discussed the pros and cons of both options, and decided that it would be beneficial to begin compiling a list of pros and cons to each option.

Homework:

1. Jeff will begin compiling a list of pros and cons for the single state plane zone concept, and the use of UTM zone 16. Contributions to this list can be sent to: jsewell@dem.state.in.us
2. Bob Wilkinson will provide information on the accuracy of state plane projections versus UTM projections.

GIS File Exchange Standard

Status: Determining scope of standard/identifying existing resources

During the meeting: Doug Marvel volunteered to author this standard. This standard would provide a reference for what file formats can be read or converted between the various GIS and CADD software in popular use. It was noted that identifying to the degree possible how much error is introduced by the conversion process would also be beneficial.

Homework: Doug will begin looking at the concept of a GIS file exchange standard, and investigate existing resources that might already provide this type of information. Any thoughts or ideas on this project can be sent to dm Marvel@spatialmarvels.com

Future Standard Development Projects

Metadata File Exchange Standard – This report is unchanged from the previous meeting. We are in need of volunteers for authoring this standard.

This standard would suggest a file format for sharing metadata. Everyone agreed that there is a relatively short list of viable candidates including .txt, .html, and .xml formats. The IUPUI Library may provide some good input into this process as they try to resolve this issue with the GIS Clearing House. Nobody was volunteered to write the standard. Dan Johnson of IUPUI library (?) was identified as a good resource for this standard due to his key involvement in the INGISI GIS Data Clearinghouse. Karen Like of USGS, and Brian Murray of IDEM, also have a great deal of experience with metadata and would be good resources. Volunteers are welcome.

Next Meeting

The Next INGISI Data Standards and Recommendation Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, May 1, 2002, 10am - 12pm, at:

The Polis Center
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
1200 Waterway Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 274-8400
(317) 278-1830 fax

Agenda:

1. Comments and feedback on latest Feature Metadata Standard draft. - Jeff Sewell
2. Wrap up Projections, Datum, and Coordinate System Standard draft. - Roger Koelpin
3. Report on GIS File Exchange Standard Project – Doug Marvel
4. Report on Website updates – Karen Frederickson
5. Discuss Common Procurement Language Draft – Jill Saligoe-Simmel
6. Continue discussion on Indiana Standard Projection Study Project
7. Future Standard Development Projects